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See Sports on B1

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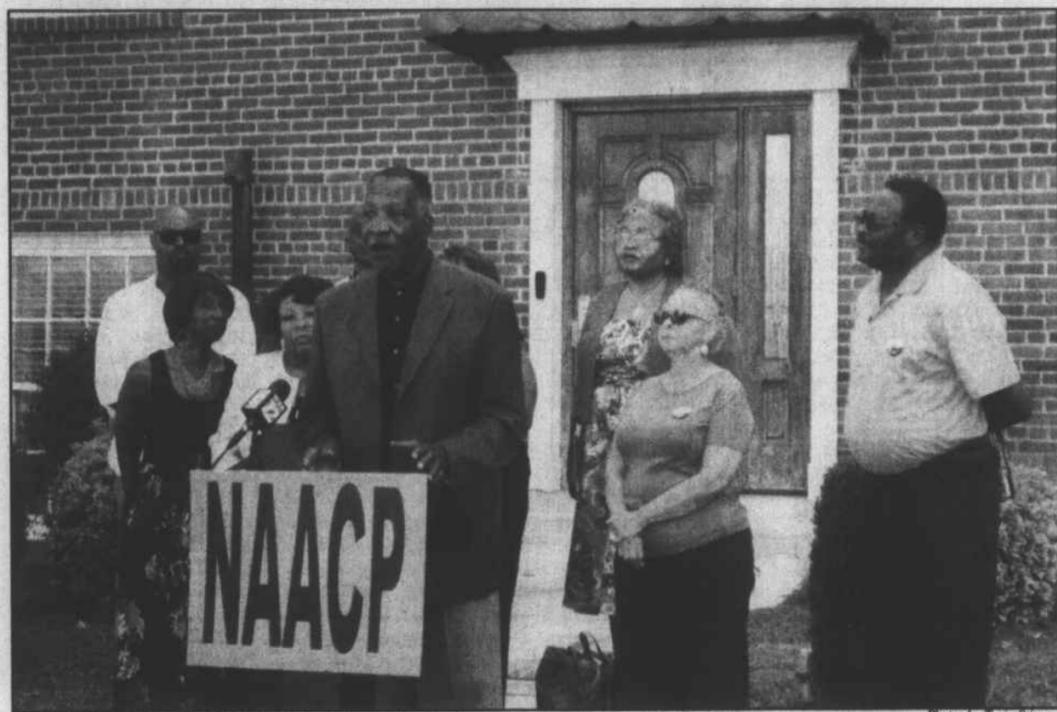
THE CHRONICLE

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WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, September 3, 2015

NAACP



Photos by Tevin Stinson

Isaac Howard, president of the local branch of the NAACP, reads part of the letter delivered to U.S. Rep. Virginia Foxx's office during a news conference in Clemmons on Tuesday, Sept. 1.

NAACP demands Rep. Foxx's support of voting rights bill

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

On Tuesday, Sept. 1, NAACP branches across North Carolina held 17 news conferences and letter deliveries at local offices of their U.S. representatives and senators.

The letters that were all delivered simultaneously at 10 a.m. demanded the representatives' and senators' support of the Voting Rights Advancement Act to restore, strengthen and advance the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Isaac Howard, president of the Winston-Salem Branch of the NAACP, spoke during the news conference outside the local office of U.S. Rep. Virginia Foxx.

Just outside the door of the office in Clemmons, Howard told members of the media why the Voting Rights Act needed to be restored, and advanced.

"The United States is experiencing a historic assault on voting rights," said Howard.

According to the letter, in just two years since the U.S. Supreme Court gutted the pre-clearance provisions of the Voting Rights Act on June 25, 2013, in Shelby County vs. Holder, 15 states, mostly in the South, have launched attacks on voting rights.

Today 21 states have implemented voter suppression laws or policies that directly target black voters and others who historically have been denied equal justice.

Dot Hill, a resident of Clemmons urged Foxx to support the act.

"We as a community are asking for your support of this act," said Hill. "We are pushing for voting rights for everyone."

After the news conference, members of the local and state branch of the NAACP marched behind president Howard as he delivered the letter inside the office.

The members gathered around Howard as he handed the letter to an assistant. Congresswoman Foxx was not in the office at the time.

These simultaneous letter deliveries were a part of America's Journey For Justice, an 840-mile march from Selma, Alabama, to Washington D.C. Each state along the Journey For Justice is focused on a different issue from the NAACP national advocacy agenda. Because North Carolina has become known as

See Rights bill on A8

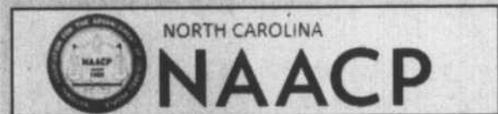
Winston-Salem to host N.C. NAACP convention

72nd conference is expected to be biggest yet

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem has been chosen to host the 72nd North Carolina State NAACP Convention Oct. 8-10. NAACP members from across the state will descend upon the city.

The three-day convention will feature a number of seminars, learning sessions and guest speakers.



During the final day of the convention N.C. NAACP President Rev. Dr. William J. Barber will deliver his State of the State address, expressing his thoughts on the progress of the state branch, and his plan for the future.

Daphne Holmes-Johnson, N.C. NAACP executive board member and state convention chair, said that in years past the State of the State address has been filled with national and local media coverage.

"The State of the State is always one of the most crowded events," said Holmes-Johnson. "I am expecting a lot more national media coverage during this year's convention."

"It has been a big year for the state branch. Dr. Barber has been appearing on a number of national media networks over the past few months. We are expecting that to lead to more coverage during the convention."

2015 has been a busy one for the state branch. On

See Convention on A8

Black doctor from Duke tells of bias during career

Dr. Damon Tweedy set to speak during Bookmarks Festival of Books

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

For the past 10 years, Winston-Salem has welcomed authors and storytellers from across the globe for the annual Bookmarks Festival of Books and Authors.

This year's festival will begin with an opening ceremony at the Milton Rhodes Center for the Arts on Saturday, Sept. 12.

During the ceremony, authors and storytellers will be speaking and answering questions about their books and upcoming projects.

Dr. Damon Tweedy, a psychiatrist at Duke University Medical Center, is one of the authors who will be speaking on the opening day of the festival.



Tweedy

Tweedy will discuss his debut memoir "Black Man in a White Coat: A Doctor's Reflections on Race and Medicine." Publishers Weekly has Tweedy's memoirs listed as Number One on its Top 10 list of memoirs and biographies of 2015.

The book chronicles how the doctor, a graduate of Duke University Medical School, dealt with racial discrimination, bias and stereotypes firsthand during his time at Duke.

The opening chapter of the book details Tweedy's thoughts and feelings when a professor at Duke asked him to change a light bulb after mistaking him as a handy man.

"It was obvious that he didn't think I belonged there," Tweedy said. "I made it my mission to prove him, and everyone else who didn't think I belonged there, wrong."

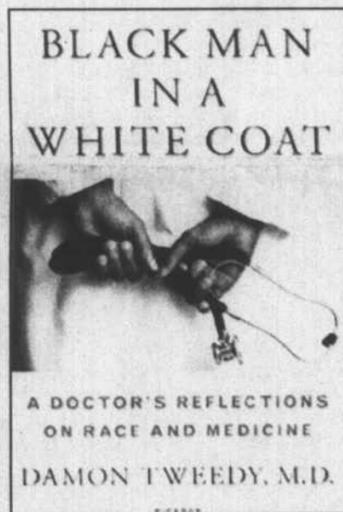
Although the book features a number of personal experiences, Tweedy said the main purpose of his book is to educate African-Americans on ways to live healthier lives.

The book also explores the unique health problems many black Americans face because of system-based disparities, the doctor-patient relationship and unhealthy lifestyles.

"That's one of the main goals of the book, to encourage African-Americans to take better care of themselves," Tweedy said.

Tweedy said he became interested in the health disparities in African-Americans during his first year of medical school.

"That first year, we kept learning about all these different diseases, and basically the message was that being black was bad for your health, but they weren't really telling us why or what we could do about it," Tweedy



See Tweedy on A2

Remembering Robert Eller: The Chronicle's first sports editor passes away at 64

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

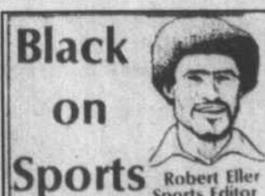
The community is remembering the life of the late Robert Eller, known for his sports reporting

and work at local recreation centers.

Eller, who passed away on Aug. 23 at age 64, was The Chronicle's first sports editor, joining the paper in its early years in the mid-1970s. He covered sports, including junior varsity and

Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) games, and wrote a column, called "Black on Sports," into the mid-1980s.

"It was just a joy for me to work with someone



as committed and dedicated as he was," said Ernie Pitt, The Chronicle's publisher and co-founder.

Pitt said that Eller won numerous honors for The Chronicle, including best sports column and best sports section. Those awards were among the accolades that lined the

See Eller on A9

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